

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05

IGA-01 SAM-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ACDE-00 /058 W

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O R 111815Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3621

INFO CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CMC

CINCLANTFLT

FMFLANT NORFOLK

CONNAVACTS ROTA

CNO WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

S E C R E T MADRID 7903

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, SP, US

SUBJ: LOAN OF 105MM AMMUNITION TO SPANISH NAVY

REF: STATE 265952 (DTG 102342Z NOV 75)

1. SINCE SO MUCH IS INVOLVED FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN BEYOND JUST A SINGLE SHIPMENT OF AMMUNITION, WE URGENTLY REQUEST THAT THE DEPT AND DOD REVIEW THE DECISION NOT TO SUPPLY THE SPANISH NAVY QUICKLY WITH AMMUNITION FROM EXISTING STOCKS IN SPAIN.

2. THE NEGATIVE IMPACT BOTH ON THE SPANISH MILITARY AND ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS ESTABLISHMENT IN THE SPANISH GOVT SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED. IMPORTANT SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS ARE ALREADY IN HIGH DUDGEON OVER WHAT THEY PERCEIVE TO BE US DISREGARD OF SPANISH INTERESTS IN THE SAHARA CRISIS. WHILE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OTHERS MAY BE MORE

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CIRCUMSPECT IN THEIR CHOICE OF WORDS, THEY REMAIN CONVINCED

THAT WE HAVE NOT
ACTED AS GOOD FRIENDS WITH RESPECT TO THE SAHARA.

3. TO THE EXTENT THIS AMMUNITION REQUEST
IS SEEN AS A TEST CASE BY THE SPANISH,
WHICH FOR MANY IT WILL BE, SOME OF THE DAMAGE HAS ALREADY BEEN
DONE BY THE CONSIDERABLE DELAY IN RESPONDING. HOWEVER, THIS
SEEMS TO US ALL THE MORE REASON TO PROCEED NOW THAT THE THREAT
OF IMMINENT HOSTILITIES HAS PASSED TO MAKE A TOKEN GESTURE OF
GOOD WILL HERE IN MADRID BEYOND WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN ABLE
TO DO. (IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE WE ARE TREATING SOME OTHER
ASPECTS OF THIS PROBLEM.

4. THIS INCIDENT ALSO MAY WELL BE REGARDED
BY A BROAD SECTOR OF THE CIVIL AND MILITARY LEADERSHIP IN SPAIN AS A
TOKEN OF WHAT THEY CAN EXPECT WILL MATERIALIZE FROM US ASSURANCES
IN THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS THAT WE EARNESTLY DESIRE TO ESTABLISH
NEW AND CLOSER FORMS OF COOPERATION.
IT MAY ALSO IMPACT NEGATIVELY, IN THE LONGER RUN,
ON THE SPANISH REACTION TO ANY US PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH NEW
MILITARY FACILITIES IN SPAIN, SUCH AS THE GROUND-BASED ELECTRO-
OPTICAL DEEP SPACE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (GEODSS)
TREATED IN STATE 265588. THE SPANISH WILL ARGUE, AND FORCEFULLY,
THAT OUR DEFENSE AND BROADER POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS, IF THEY
ARE TO BE THOSE OF EQUALS, MUST RELATE TO THEIR PRECEPTION OF
STRATEGIC INTERESTS AS WELL AS OURS.

5. SHOULD IT PROVE IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND A WAY TO GET AROUND THE
LEGAL PROHIBITION AGAINST LOANS OF CONSUMABLES -- THROUGH
SOME OTHER RAPID MEANS OF PROVIDING THE AMMUNITION -- WE
BELIEVE WE SHOULD AS A BARE MINIMUM SEEK TO PROVIDE A MORE
CONVINCING AND COMPLETE RATIONALE FOR OUR DECISION. THE
JUSTIFICATION WE HAVE BEEN PROVIDED IN THE REFERENCED TELEGRAM
WILL SIMPLY NOT BE BELIEVED BY SPANISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES
AND WILL BE REGARDED AS A FINAL LINK IN WHAT SPANISH PERCEIVE
AS CHAIN OF EVIDENCE OF US SUPPORT OF MOROCCANS IN SAHARAN
DISPUTE AND RELATIVE INDIFFERENCE TO SPANISH INTERESTS,
DESPITE OUR PROTESTATIONS OTHERWISE.
STABLER

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